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You are Welcomed to our Store

Webb's Racket Store

WOMAN

Wife of President Elect
Kept Him From the
Bench—Chicago Wo-
man an Undertaker.
The Royal Nun.

Mrs. William Howard Taft, wife of the president elect, is said to have kept her husband from accepting the seat on the supreme court bench. When he received the offer Mr. Taft hesitated, although the place on the supreme bench had been his ambition. When the Philippines offer came to him it was Mrs. Taft who decided for that. This quality of farsightedness, joined to exceptional tact, has made Mrs. Taft a social leader from the beginning. "A busy housewife and the helpmate of a national politician has little time for fads," says Mrs. Taft, but still she has always found time for her music. Aside from this and her household affairs she has no interests.

Back of the decision of a Chicago woman of culture to become an undertaker's assistant is an interesting story. She received a telegram telling that her husband had been killed in a railroad wreck. A long illness followed. When she recovered she learned that no provision had been made for her and her son, whose birth followed the father's death. She finally became an assistant to a Frenchwoman who conducted a massage parlor. The Frenchwoman snubbed her, and she quit. At this juncture a message from a girl friend who lived in Michigan avenue asked the woman to come and console her after her mother's death. The woman arrived as the undertaker was preparing the body of the girl's mother for burial. The widow was shocked at the way in which the undertaker did his work and asked to be allowed to assist. When she had finished she received the thanks of the undertaker. That was the beginning. She took up the art of embalming, and as soon as she can get a license she will adopt it as a business. In one week she saved \$100 as an assistant for her work.

The Grand Duchess Serge, who quit the world and entered a Greek Catholic convent, is now known as the royal nun of Europe. She is an older sister of the czarina, who before her marriage was Princess Elizabeth of Hesse. It is one of the morsels of royal gossip that the German emperor at one time was ardently desirous of marrying his lovely first cousin, but Princess Elizabeth of Hesse preferred the young Russian grand duke, who, it is said, became fascinated with her at first sight. The grand duchess never had any children. She adopted the son and daughter of her brother-in-law, the Grand Duke Paul, after the death of his wife. These children accompanied the grand duchess as mourners at the funeral of the Grand Duke Serge, whose tragic death by a bomb will be recalled.

A woman's hat that cost \$60 or \$100 in Paris, which was turned out by a Parisian milliner, can be bought for \$15 in London provided the hat has been slightly damaged so that it can be speedily remedied by clever agents who make a business of buying and rehabilitating Parisian creations. These "lettovers" find their way into what are known as "faking" rooms in London. A modern gown is frequently made up in an artistic manner from a couple of old fashioned ones. Dress agents, of whom there are many in London, are the mediums between the ultra fashionable market of Paris and the slender pursed Englishwoman.

Laundry work by women is enumerated as one of the economic gains by the Girls' Normal school of the City of Mexico, according to the reports of that institution for the term of 1907-8. Heretofore the monthly expenditure for this work was something less than \$75. Recently, however, the school authorities adopted the plan of putting in stone washing places constructed after the Mexican fashion. This innovation reduced the laundry bills to \$18 a month and made the girls correspondingly happy.

That women are more independent than men is the conclusion of a Philadelphia woman. For instance, says the observer in the Quaker City, a woman may wear a white straw hat in winter that no other woman would dare to criticize—the wearer's face. No man would dare wear such a hat after a stated calendar date. If the factory girl who sews on the man's hatband happens to get the bow the fraction of an inch more to one side than it should be the man will not dare to wear it.

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